

Meeting of the Historical Architectural Review Board  
June 29, 2006

The Falls Church Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) convened its monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 29, 2006. Present were Chair Charles Moore, Secretary Cynthia Kuhn, and member Carol Jackson along with city staff liaison Deborah Gee. Also attending was applicant Gwen Pohl Infante.

The HARB took up Item 2, Public Hearing on 200 South Oak St, [Real Property Code 52-206-088] by Gwen Pohl Infante and Peter Infante, owners, to construct an addition (basement, first floor, second floor, and attic storage). The addition's joints will be offset so that the original house will be identified easily. All materials and details (wood lap siding, cedar shake shingles, fish scale shingles in gables, metal roofing to match sunroom metal roof, and doors and windows) of the new construction will match the existing structure as closely as possible. Ms. Pohl reviewed the proposal generally, indicating that the work is being undertaken to expand the family's living space with a larger kitchen and dining area on the first floor, a master bedroom with bath on the second floor, and storage space in the basement.

The meeting was then opened to the public. There being no one wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed. The HARB members engaged in a general discussion of the plans and made several suggestions for the applicant's consideration, all intended to protect the integrity of the existing structure as much as possible. Mr. Moore noted several disagreements between the applicant's floor plans and elevations. He indicated that if left uncorrected, those discrepancies could result in significant difficulty and increased cost in construction. He also made several other suggestions including (1) reducing the size of the attic windows on the left side and seeing that the windows align vertically; (2) revising the design of the rear elevation so that the roof pitches matches those in the existing structure; and (3) reworking the small shed area on the structure's right rear so that it is more in keeping with the existing structure. The HARB expressed the consensus opinion that the house itself is lovely and undertaking an expansion that doubles its size is complicated and will require some careful attention to details.

The HARB then took up Item 3, Action Items, and Ms. Gee circulated a memorandum dated June 27, 2006 from Planning Director Elizabeth R. Friel, on several proposed code changes under consideration by Council. The HARB agreed to review the document and discuss it at its July meeting unless one was not held, in which case it would discuss it via e-mail in order to respond by the requested August 1, 2006 deadline.

The HARB then took up Item 4, Updates and Anticipated Items: Ms. Gee reported that the building official met with the owner of 409 S. West Street and determined that the property, which had been significantly damaged by fire, was now secure with the roof covered and the windows and doors boarded and sealed, and repair is underway. Mr. Moore proved a brief update on the work of the Preservation Partners Task Force, indicating that it intended to present a report to the council with its priorities and options aimed at protecting the city's historic resources.

The HARB then took up Item 5, approval of minutes of April 27, 2006 and May 25, 2005. Ms. Jackson moved and Ms. Kuhn seconded approval as submitted and the motion carried.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia G. Kuhn, Secretary